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DATE 2008

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DISPATCH NO. WELA-1490

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TO : Chief, BCD

DATE: 29 November 1948

FROM : C

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Comment on Report
SPECIFIC -

MICROFILMED

FEB 21 1963

The following comment on SO-17, 602 has been received from

"This report alleged pro-Soviet views on the part of the Mufti, and Soviet support for the Arab armies.

"Neither accords with our own Mid East reports and although we cannot produce evidence to disprove this report we have had no confirmation from any source, and the story does not fit in with the situation as we see it.

"Muhammed Tawfiq Khalid is the Mufti of Beirut. Unlike his colleague from Jerusalem he confines himself entirely to religion - his name has never occurred in connection with politics or supply of arms. He has, however, a son Mukhtar Khalid, who likes to play the ultra-Nationalist and invent "bogey" stories for consumption by the Anglo-Americans. He may very well be at the origin of this report.

"Saadi Shawwa (brother of Izzedine, Rushdi and Adel) is anti-Mufti. When the Palestinian National Assembly was being held in Gaza recently, he took a small delegation to Amman in order to join the opposition congress there. Therefore if your report of the discussion in Saadi's house is correct, the actual substance is still open to doubt, because it would have been made by the Mufti's enemies.

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"One of our best Beirut sources close to the Mufti maintains that he has not been flirting with the Russians. The Mufti knows well enough that the Jews are being protected by the Russians and he has not yet reached the stage of playing Samson. It may be that he (the source) is trying to whitewash his master, but another well placed informant is equally convinced the Mufti is anti-Russian.

"Enquiries in connection with the alleged Ikhwan contacts with the Russians are still being made in Beirut and we will report later."

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